

LAUREL HILL FURNACE
Baldwin Run, 1.1 miles East
of SR711
New Florence Vicinity
Westmoreland County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-251

HAER
PA
65-NEFLO.V
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
LAUREL HILL FURNACE

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Location: 1.1 mile from Route 711, New Florence, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: 1845

Builder: Reed, Gallagher and Hale

Present Owner: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Present Use: furnace

Significance: An unusually well-preserved example of mid-19th century Pennsylvania iron furnace, Laurel Hill Furnace was somewhat unusual in that it contained two tuyere and two work arches, rather than one of each, which was customary. The bosh is intact, as are the 35' deep wheel pit and 4' diameter tunnel.

Project Information: In February, 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HAER undertook a comprehensive inventory of Westmoreland County to identify the region's surviving historic engineering works and industrial resources.

Compiler: Nancy Shedd and Ken Heineman, Historians
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DESCRIPTION: The Laurel Hill Furnace is located south of New Florence and adjacent to Baldwin Run. The furnace stack is of ashlar stone construction, lined with refractory brick; 35'-9" x 35'-9" in plan; 39' tall; two work arches and two tuyere arches; the large work arch on front is 14' wide; rear arch is 9' x 9' and infilled with ashlar; north and south tuyere arches have cast-iron lintels and are 12' high and 10' wide; wrought-iron tie rods secure the masonry. A wheel pit, 35' deep and lined with stone, connects a 500' tunnel to Baldwin Run at a nearby stone dam. This stone dam crosses Baldwin Run about 500' south of the furnace where the tunnel enters the stream. Archeological features associated with the furnace are located on both sides of the road.

HISTORY: This hot-blast furnace was constructed in 1845-6 by Reed, Gallagher and Hale and remained in blast for ten years. John Graff of Blairsville later purchased the furnace and leased it to E. Hoover of New Florence. The stack has a 9' bosh and was originally 33' high. In 1855, the first year of furnace operations, 750 tons of metal were produced. Laurel Hill Furnace has been included on the National Register of Historic Places and the Pennsylvania Inventory. The furnace has been donated to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Sources:

Sharp, Myron and Thomas, William H. A Guide to the Old Stone Blast Furnaces in Western Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh: Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1966.

Lesley, J.P., The Iron Manufacturer's Guide to the Furnaces, Forges, and Rolling Mills of the United States. New York: John Wiley, Publisher, 1859.

Schmidt, Thomas M. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form: Laurel Hill Furnace," unpublished document, August 15, 1974, available at the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

ADDENDUM TO

LAUREL HILL FURNACE

Baldwin Run, E. of State Route 711

New Florence vicinity

Westmoreland County

Pennsylvania

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